

INTELL LIBRARY

E

URBAN DISTRICT OF ROYTON.



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

**MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH**

FOR THE YEAR

1925.





TO THE

Chairman and Members of the Health Committee

of the

URBAN DISTRICT OF ROYTON.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you this, my Annual Report on the Health of the District for the year 1925.

This year the Annual Report is a Survey Report in accordance with the requirements of the Minister of Health.

I thank those ladies who so regularly help in the work of the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre.

I also thank the nurse, the Sanitary Inspector and other Officials of the Council for their help in the work of the Health Department.

I have the honour to be, gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

W. L. BENTLEY, L.S.A.,

Medical Officer of Health.

March, 1926.

ANNUAL HEALTH REPORT,

1925.

I—GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (Acres)	2,147
Population (estimated 1925)	17,680.
Number of inhabited houses (Census 1921)	4,052
Number of families or separate occupiers (Census 1921)	4,069.

Rateable value £123,930.

Sum represented by a penny rate...£490.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

Physical Features

The district is enclosed within a basin, the town itself occupying the centre. Sloping towards the South-west it is drained by the small river Irk, which crosses the boundary in this direction. The margins of the basin vary from 370 feet above the sea level to 800 feet. The highest points of the district are in the N.W. towards Tandle Hill (700 feet), and S.E. towards Oldham Edge (800 feet). The lowest point at Street Bridge forms almost the centre of the South-west boundary.

The general contour of the district is undulating, being watered by small streams all flowing towards the lowest point at Street Bridge. The surface soil consists of an alluvial deposit in alternate layers of soft marl and quicksand, which cover nearly the whole district. At the central point of the district, which is some 500 feet above the sea level, this deposit reaches a depth of 50 feet from the surface. In the South-east a bed of clay rises to the surface and covers a portion of the districts extending from Oldham road to Higginshaw.

The land not occupied by dwellings or factories is used for herbage and grazing, the farmers disposing of their milk in the neighbourhood daily.

Climate

Royton, lying on the western slope of the Pennine Range, is subject to a considerable rainfall, 6—7 inches in the winter, and in the latter part of the year to fogs of considerable density.

Water Supply

The water is supplied by the Oldham Corporation. It is pure and sufficient in quantity. A few scattered groups of houses obtain their water from wells and springs.

Milk Supply

Most of it is brought in daily from the neighbouring farms. It is found to be generally good.

Occupation

Cotton spinning forms the staple industry of the area. In it the bulk of the inhabitants are employed.

Poor Law Relief

The amount of Poor Law Relief is not excessive. No other forms of gratuitous medical relief are utilized.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN AREA.

Hospitals provided or subsidised by the Local Authority or by the County Council :—

- (1) Tuberculosis.—Sanatorium and Hospital accommodation is provided by the County Council.
- (2) Maternity cases are admitted to the Boundary Park Hospital, Oldham.
- (3) Children.—Are admitted to the Oldham Royal Infirmary, and Manchester Children's Hospital.
- (4) Fever.—Oldham Corporation Hospital, Westhulme.
- (5) Smallpox.—Chadderton, Royton and Crompton (Joint Hospital) at Racefield.

There is no institutional provision for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants and homeless children in the district.

Ambulance Facilities :—

- (a) Infectious cases.—Ambulance from the Oldham Health Department.
- (b) Non-infectious and Accident Cases :—By Motor Ambulance, Housed at the Oldham Fire Station.

Clinics and Treatment Centres :—

A Maternity and Child Welfare Centre is provided by the District Council, with accommodation at the Free Library, Rochdale Road. (Consultations only).

A School Clinic has been opened in Rochdale Road for minor ailments, defective eyesight and teeth defects.

The Lancashire County Council has made arrangements for the treatment of Tuberculosis at Oldham, 24, Barker Street, and of Venereal Diseases at the Oldham Royal Infirmary.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

Medical Officer of Health—W. L. BENTLEY, L.S.A. (part time).

Sanitary Inspector—JOHN BUTTERFIELD (whole time).

Health Visitor—Mrs. S. A. ETESON, Trained Nurse (whole time).

Food Inspector (Meat and Dairies)—WM. HALL, M.R.C.V.S.

Professional Nursing in the Home :—

- (a) General.—Royton Sick Nursing Association provide one nurse. This Association is supported by voluntary contributions.

(b) Cases where isolation is impossible are removed to hospital at the expense of the Local Authority. The cases at home are generally nursed by the relatives.

Midwives :—

Number on the Register	4
Number Practising	4
No midwife is employed or subsidised by the Local Authority.	

LEGISLATION IN FORCE.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

List of Adoption Acts, Bye-Laws and local regulations relating to the public health, in force in the district, with date of adoption.

Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act, 1890.

From 1st October, 1891.

The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890.

From 1st October, 1891.

The Baths and Wash houses Act, 1846 to 1899.

Adopted 6th November, 1907.

The Notification of Births Act, 1907.

From 1st September, 1915.

The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907.

Part (2) Streets and Buildings.

(3) Sanitary provisions.

(4) Infectious Diseases.

(5) Common Lodging Houses.

(6) Recreation Grounds.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

No. of new houses erected during the year :—

(a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b)) ... 31

(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts of 1919,
1923 or 1924 :—

(i) By the Local Authority 18

(ii) By other bodies or persons 12

No. of houses in course of erection under Council's Building

Scheme

Financial assistance for purposes of increasing housing accommodation:

Have any advances been made during 1925—

By Loans ...nil No. nil Amount of Loans ... nil

By subsidy...14 No. 12 Amount of subsidies ... £1200

Unfit dwelling houses :—

Inspection.

- | | |
|---|-----|
| (1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)... | nil |
| (2) No. of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, or the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 | 17 |
| (3) No. of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation | nil |
| (4) No. of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under (3)) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation | 17 |

Remedy of defects without service of formal notices :—

- | | |
|---|------|
| No. of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers | none |
|---|------|

Action under Statutory Powers :—

A.—Proceedings under Section 3 of the Housing, Act, 1925 :—

- | | |
|--|-----|
| (1) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs | nil |
| (2) No. of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :— | |
| (a) By Owners... .. | nil |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... | nil |
| (3) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close | nil |

B.—*Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

- | | |
|--|------|
| (1) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | 17 |
| (2) No. of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :— | |
| (a) By owners | 17 |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... | none |

C.—Proceedings under Sections 11, 14 and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925 :—

- | | |
|--|------|
| (1) No. of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders | none |
| (2) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made | none |

(3) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit	...	...	...	...	...	2
(4) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	...	...	...	none
(5) No. of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	...	...	...	none
D.—No. of houses demolished voluntarily by owners or converted to Workshops, &c.	...	...	...	...	...	none

*Refers only to action taken in reference to housing defects. Notices with regard to drainage and other defects should be included under Sanitary Administration.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS.

(1) General housing conditions in the area :—

With a few exceptions good, but the number is inadequate.

(2) Overcrowding :—

Over 100 applications for houses have been made.

(3) Fitness of houses :—

The general standard is good.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT :

The regular inspection of the district during the year 1925 has revealed the following nuisances and defects which were reported to the Health Committee, and dealt with month by month as follows :—

Defective and Blocked Drainage	.....	43
„ Closets and Ashpits	.....	20
„ Pails and Ashpans	.....	140
„ Waste Pipes, Gutters and Spoutings	... .	35
Various other defects	.....	25
		<hr/> 263

To secure the remedy of these nuisances 197 formal and 19 legal notices were served upon the respective owners, or agents for the property.

Seven ashpits and two cesspools were abolished and 88 pail closets were converted to the fresh water system.

The sanitary work continues to be done by the Council's workmen with regularity. The pails being emptied during the night and the house refuse collected during the day, the bulk of the domestic refuse is deposited upon several tips.

COLLECTION AND REMOVAL OF HOUSE REFUSE.

Quarter ending	Number of Ashpits Emptied	Number of Loads	No. of Ashboxes Emptied	Number of Loads	Number of Loads of Offal	Total Number of Loads
1925						
March 31	841	597	27066	542	43	1182
June 30	715	522	27066	586	36	1144
Sept. 30	723	523	27300	537	39	1099
Dec. 31	717	496	27300	450	38	984
Totals...	2926 2986	2138	108732	2115	156	4409

The sanitary conveniences are as follows :—

Privy Middens	1
Cesspools	18
Pail Closets	2368
Waste Water Closets.....	946
Fresh Water Closets	1086
Ashpits	570
Portable Receptacles for house refuse.....	2138

The number of cases of infectious diseases notified during the year were :—

Scarlet Fever	37
Diphtheria	6
Pneumonia	24
Erysipelas	16
Pulmonary Tuberculosis.....	12
Other Forms of Tuberculosis	6
Chicken-Pox	127
	<hr/> 228

The cases were visited, disinfectants freely supplied, school attendance regulated, and upon recovery, 127 rooms in 77 places were disinfected with sulphur or vapoform.

The Bakehouses number 42 and were found to be clean and satisfactory. 72 visits were made at irregular intervals.

Cotton Spinning is the principal industry here, there being 32 spinning mills, and the weaving, winding and bleaching mills number six. Sixty-three visits were made and 18 defects were found in four mills and remedied on being reported to the management. The sanitary conditions are good.

The subsidiary Trades are, Blacksmiths 2, Cartwrights 2, Joiners 4, Machinists 3, Moulders 2, Tinnerns 3, Printers 2, Skipmakers 3, Tailors 3, Boot and Clogmakers 7 and various 4, Total 35. 48 visits were made to these places.

Altogether there are 115 mills and workshops on the register, and 183 visits were made. Their condition may be fairly described as clean and satisfactory.

The Lodging Houses number four, they have been visited frequently and found to be clean and well kept.

The Slaughter-houses number 10 and have been visited on 237 occasions during the year, 12 cwt. 2 qrs and 10 lbs. of unsound meat was surrendered and destroyed. The bye-laws approved by the Minister of Health, requiring the use locally of the Humane Killer in the slaughtering of animals came into operation in the month of March, and has become generally observed.

The cowsheds have been visited frequently at irregular intervals and found kept in fair condition. Mr. Wm. Hall, M.R.C.V.S. observed no signs of general or mammary tubercle.

Twenty-three Farmers are registered as Cowkeepers and Purveyors of Milk, and 16 persons as purveyors only.

Food and Drugs

During the year in this district 46 samples of Milk were purchased for analysis, and single samples of Coffee, Marmalade, Ground Ginger, Mixed Spice, Cream of Tartar, Table Jelly, Butter and Pepper.

The Analysts report that all the samples were genuine.

Smoke Observations

During the year 54 observations of mill chimneys have been taken within this district. The duration of each observation was 30 minutes, and the limit for Black Smoke is as follows :—

Where 1 or 2 boilers are working.....3 minutes per half-hour

Where 3 boilers are working.....4 " " "

Where 4 or more boilers are working ...5 " " "

Total Ob- servations taken	No Black Smoke	1 and under 2 minutes	2 and under 3 minutes	3 and under 4 minutes	4 and under 5 minutes	5 minutes and over
54	21	8	9	5	3	8

The time limit was exceeded by six firms, warning and letters were sent and two statutory notices were served.

JOHN BUTTERFIELD,

Sanitary Inspector.

HEALTH VISITOR'S REPORT

SUMMARY OF WORK DONE FROM JANUARY 1st
TO DECEMBER 31st, 1925.

New Cases

214—187 of the infants were strong and healthy ;
 8 delicate.
 7 had died before visiting.
 12 stillborn.

 214

Of the 195 living children

165 were breast fed.
 6 breast and bottle fed.
 24 bottle fed.

 195

Second Visits

188—6 changes in feeding.

16 under medical treatment for the following :—

Digestive trouble	Bronchitis	Whooping Cough
2	1	2
Hernia	Other Causes.	
1	10	

Two others, the mothers were advised to see the doctor.

Three had been removed out of the district.

All the others were satisfactory.

Subsequent Visits

1290—I advised six to consult a doctor, and 57 were under medical treatment for the following :—

6 Measles	4 Bronchitis	7 Whooping Cough
1 Bronchial Pneumonia	3 Chicken-Pox	3 Diarrhoea
7 Rickets	3 Teething	2 Impetigo
14 Other Causes.	3 in Norden Hospital.	

4 out-patients at Oldham Royal Infirmary.

Nursed Out

46—530 visits have been made to these children. All were satisfactory. The number varies during the year. The children being nursed at home at times.

Deaths of Children
3 years and
under during
1925.

37—Premature Births 7
 Inanition 4
 Congenital Debility... 1
 Broncho Pneumonia 7
 Bronchitis 2
 Whooping Cough ... 1
 Marasmus 4
 Enteritis ... 2
 Diphtheria 1
 Other Causes 8

 37

Removals

18 have removed to other districts during the year.

First Visits	214
Second Visits	188
Subsequent Visits	1290
Visits to children nursed out	530

Total Visits2222

S. A. ETESON,
HEALTH VISITOR.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CENTRE.

NEW CASES, ATTENDANCES AND CONSULTATIONS
FOR THE YEAR 1925.

	Under 1 Year	1—2 years	Over 2 Years	Ante- Natal	Other Mothers	Special Cases	Total
New Cases ...	56	4	8	3	21	1	93
Attendances...	950	141	201	27	195	92	1706
Consultations	582	67	121	27	135	65	997

REMARKS :—

Dr. Wm. Allan Young, D.S.O. delivered an excellent address to the mothers on December 2nd, 1925, which was very much appreciated.
88 mothers were present.

S. A. ETESON,
HEALTH VISITOR

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

Number of cases of infectious diseases notified, number of deaths from these diseases, number of cases removed to hospital, and deaths in hospital during the year 1925 :—

DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED.													Hospital		Total Deaths
	Total Cases at all ages.	YEARS												Total Cases removed to Hospital.	Deaths in Hospital of persons belonging to District.	
		Under 1	1—2	2—3	3—4	4—5	5—10	10—15	15—20	20—35	35—45	45—65	65 and over			
Scarlet Fever	37	...	1	...	5	2	20	6	1	2	...	...	...	13	...	...
Diphtheria	6	...	...	...	2	1	1	1	...	1	..	...	...	4	...	...
Acute Primary Pneumonia	23	4	2	1	...	4	3	...	1	2	3	1	2	...	...	7
Influenza	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Erysipelas... ..	16	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	3	6	3	...	...	...
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	12	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	6	1	3	1	...	...	...
Other forms	6	...	...	...	...	...	3	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Chickenpox	127	4	9	11	14	20	65	2	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	228	8	12	12	21	27	92	11	6	15	7	10	7	17	...	7

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods.				NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
				Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
				M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Years											
0— 1	...	...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1— 5	...	...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5—10	...	...		...	...	3	...	...	...	1	...
10—15	...	...		...	...	...	2	...	...	...	1
15—20	...	...		...	1	...	1	1	1	...	1
20—25	...	...		...	3	...	...	1	2	...	...
25—35	...	...		2	1	...	...	1	1	1	...
35—45	...	...		1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
45—55	...	...		3	...	...	...	2	...	...	1
55—65	...	...		...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
65 and upwards				1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	...			7	5	3	3	6	4	2	3
				12		6		10		5	

INFANTILE MORTALITY.
Deaths under one year of age.

CAUSES OF DEATH				Under 1 Week	1 and under 2 weeks	2 and under 3 weeks	3 and under 4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	1 and under 3 months	3 and under 6 months	6 and under 9 months	9 and under 12 months	Total Deaths under 1 year
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Pneumonia, all forms	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2	4
Enteritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Gastritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	..	...	1
Congenital Malformation	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Premature Birth	...	...	...	5	...	...	...	5	1	...	...	...	6
Inanition	...	...	...	2	1	...	...	3	1	...	...	...	4
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus.	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2	1	...	...	1	4
Other Causes	...	...	...	3	1	...	...	4	...	1	2	...	7
Totals				11	2	1	1	15	4	3	3	4	29

Bacteriological Examinations during 1925. 24 examinations for Diphtheria, four of which were positive, and two for Typhoid which were negative.

Nett Deaths at subjoined ages of Residents occurring within
or without the District during 1925.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	At all Ages	Under 1 year	1 and under 2	2 and under 3	3 and under 4	4 and under 5	5 and under 10	10 and under 15	15 and under 20	20 and under 35	35 and under 45	45 and under 65	65 and over
Enteric Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Small-Pox ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Influenza	4	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	1	1
Encephalitis Lethargica ...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...
Meningococcal Meningitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	5	...	3	...
Other Tuberculous Diseases ...	5	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	1	...	1	...
Cancer Malignant Disease ...	25	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	16	6
Rheumatic Fever	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Diabetes	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2	...
Cerebral Hæmorrhage... ..	19	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	8	10
Heart Disease	43	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	3	17	20
Arterio-Sclerosis	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	2
Bronchitis	33	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	14	16
Pneumonia (All Forms) ...	17	4	1	2	...	...	1	...	1	...	3	3	2
Other Respiratory Diseases ...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...
Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years)	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Appendicitis and Typhlitis ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Cirrhosis of Liver ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute and Chronic Nephritis ...	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	2	2	2
Puerperal Sepsis ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy & Parturition	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Congenital Debility, Malformation & Premature Birth	17	17	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Suicides	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Other deaths from Violence ...	10	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	3	...	1	1	3
Other Defined Diseases	42	5	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	2	3	8	21
Causes ill-defined or unknown	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...
To als...	261	29	5	4	1	1	3	2	9	19	21	82	85

